

III. REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2006 in regard to the above-identified patent application. Claims 2, 9 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 3 - 8, 10 - 17, 19 and 20 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 15-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2. Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 1 has been so amended to include the features of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claim 4 depends upon claim 1. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 1, claim 4 is patentable over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claim 8 has been amended to include the features of claim 9. Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 8 has been so amended to include the features of claim 9. Accordingly, claim 8 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over

Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claims 11 and 12 depends upon claim 8. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 8, claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of claim 18. Claim 18 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 15 has been so amended to include the features of claim 18. Accordingly, claim 15 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claims 16, 17 and 20 depends upon claim 15. For the reasons set forth above relating to claim 15, claims 16, 17 and 20 are patentable over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 9 and 18 have been so rewritten in the form of currently amended claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively and claims 2, 9 and 18 have been cancelled. For the reasons set forth above, claims 1, 8 and 15 are patentable over Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910). Claims 3 and 5-7 depend upon claim 1. Claims 10, 13 and 14 depend upon claim 8. Claim 18 depends upon claim 15. Accordingly, claims 3, 5-7, 10, 13, 14 and 19 are patentable over

Sipple et al. (US 6,405,327) in view of Quarterman et al. (US 2002/0177910).

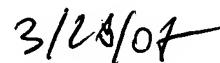
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,


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